

**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES PLANNING & POLICY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
3701 JAMES KAY LANE, HERMITAGE, TN 37076
JULY 18, 2017**

TYPE OF MEETING	Developmental Disabilities Planning & Policy Council (DDPPC)
FACILITATOR	Carrie Hobbs Guiden, Chair
NOTE TAKER	Solita Morris
DDPPC MEMBERS PRESENT	Lee Chase, Juan Chirigiano, Amber Clark, Pam Jackson, and Robyn Lampley
MEMBERS ABSENT	Linda Brown
DIDD STAFF PRESENT	Pat Edmiston, Alex Heart
EX-OFFICIO	Wanda Willis
GUESTS	Paul Choquette, Director of System Transformation (TennCare), Amanda Johnson, Asst. Deputy Chief LTSS (TennCare); Billy Randolph (The Arc)

Call to Order and Introductions

Introductions were made around the room. The minutes from the April 19, 2017, meeting were approved as submitted.

Community Announcements/Sharing – Carrie Hobbs Guiden

- The next TN Disability MegaConference will be May 24-25, 2018. Interested people can visit <http://tndisabilitymegconference.org>.
- Family Forums - For existing ECF CHOICES members and their families in each of the three grand regions. The forums are being coordinated by Amerigroup and BlueCare.
East – 7/25/2017, 6-8pm – Knoxville Zoological Gardens, 3500 Knoxville Zoo Drive, Knoxville
Middle – 7/26/2017, 6-8pm – Goodwill Industries, 937 Herman Street, Nashville
West – 7/27/2017, 6-8pm – Memphis Center for Independent Living, 1622 Madison Avenue, Memphis
- Partners in Policymaking Leadership Institute – TN Council on Developmental Disabilities is accepting applications year-round. Info is available at www.tn.gov/cdd/article/partners-in-policymaking. This program promotes advocacy education and networking opportunities.
- Vanderbilt Kennedy Center – “VAP” Volunteer Advocacy Program for Special Education Advocacy.
- Councils on DD have been completely cancelled out of the President’s proposed federal budget. TN Council on DD is drafting talking points to address this, which will be shared with DDPPC for input.
- Dickson is having Family Day on August 26th at Montgomery Bell State Park – Families are encouraged to attend and have fun with activities, while also receiving information about the Step program for people transitioning out of high school.

ECF CHOICES Program Update – Amanda Johnson and Paul Choquette, TennCare

Mandy announced the hiring of Shannon Nehus as the Long Term Care Program Director of I/DD Programs and Services within the Quality, Accountability & Innovation Unit in the Division of LTSS. She will supervise the Directors of Employment and Community First CHOICES and the 1915(c) Waiver programs and will work with the Deputy Chief of LTSS to lead all aspects of programs and services for individual with I/DD, setting the vision and priorities, helping to shape policy and practice, and supporting ongoing system transformation efforts to align with person-centered practices and to support the achievement of employment and other quality of life outcomes for persons with IDD served in these programs. Dr. Lisa Mills has been hired as the Deputy Chief of LTSS. TennCare is still actively recruiting a Director of the ECF CHOICES Program.

In the first year of the ECF CHOICES Program, there were 1,700 original slots. TennCare anticipates an additional appropriation and vacation of waiver slots to add 1,000 slots in 2018. Group 4 will have 300 additional slots, Group 5 an additional 600 slots, and Group 6 will have an additional 100 slots. As of July 13, 2017, there are 1,415 people enrolled. There are close to 300 in the enrollment process. Demographic breakdown is as follows:

- Middle - 42%
- East - 35%
- West - 23%
- Amerigroup - 30%
- BlueCare - 70%
- Intellectual Disabilities – 42%
- Developmental Disabilities – 58%

Approximately 300 enrollees are consumer-directed. Employment numbers will be published in the Expect Employment Report to the Governor. Here is a preview:

As of June 30, 2017, approximately 1,400 people were enrolled in the program, including 1,331 working-age individuals. Of those working age individuals, about 70% have a goal to obtain, maintain, explore, or advance in competitive, integrated employment. A total of 833 participants in the program were working-age and no longer attending school. Of this group, 15.4% worked in competitive, integrated employment. Data as of June 30, 2017, indicates that on average, workers earn nearly \$8.60 per hour and work just under 17 hours a week. Another 364 participants received pre-employment services designed to help people learn about job possibilities, develop skills for employment success, and take critical steps toward obtaining employment.

- Working-age participants with a goal to obtain, maintain, explore or advance in competitive, integrated employment - 70%
- Individuals participating in Employment Exploration Service who decided to pursue competitive integrated employment after completing this service - 82%
- Number of working-age members receiving Pre-Employment Services - 364
- Working-age people, no longer in school, who are working in competitive integrated employment - 15.4%
- Employers Engaged - 91

System Transformation Efforts Leadership sub-groups are:

- Policies and Procedures
- Identification of Quality Services
- Workforce Retention
- Data Analysis

Anyone interested in serving on any of these groups can contact Paul at paul.choquette@tn.gov.

The Future of Medicaid Funding – Carrie Hobbs Guiden/Council

Still waiting on the vote for Medicare. The amount of funding for people with I/DD would be significantly cut because it would be a set amount/person, rather than a match. Partners at the national level continue to lobby about the importance of Medicaid. Whether the bill goes away or not, the advocacy effort will not lose momentum. 38% of state budget comes from federal funding.

Home and Community-based services are optional, not mandated, with CMS. The CMS 2016 Quality Strategies do not address or acknowledge developmental disabilities. This document may be found at:

<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/QualityInitiativesGenInfo/Downloads/CMS-Quality-Strategy.pdf>

Discussion on DIDD 3rd Quarter Update – Alex Heart/Council

This report was handed out during the council meeting. There was discussion around Alternative Workplace Solutions (AWS), National Core Indicators (NCI), and the Provider Manual.

Supported Decision-Making

Legislation was proposed last session that had the goal of providing a less-constrictive alternative to conservatorship. That legislation went before the Senate Judiciary Committee. Self-advocates provided testimonies that went very well. There was a lot of conceptual buy-in, but ultimately the legislation was put on hold. There is a new goal to get this passed during next legislative session. Language is being drafted to add to the conservatorship code, rather than having a separate document to address the matter. Other states are using this document in conjunction with a Power of Attorney document. If and when this legislation passes, there will need to be a great deal of outreach to stakeholders regarding what it all means and how to use it. More information around supported decision-making may be found at: <http://www.supporteddecisionmaking.org/http://supporteddecisionmaking.org/blogs/jonathan-martinis>.

Focus Area 1: Autism Council Activities

A deadline of July 15, 2017, has been set for applications for council membership to be submitted. There will be 3 self-advocates and/or family members from each region; Commissioners or their designees from the Departments of Health, Education, Commerce and Insurance, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services; and the Executive Directors or their designees from the TN Council on Developmental Disabilities, the Commission on Children and Youth, and the Bureau of TennCare. Council composition will hopefully be in place by the end of August, and the first meeting will take place in September 2017. Meetings will take place in Nashville from 10:00-2:00. There is no fiscal note attached to the legislation, so any meals or travel reimbursement will not be provided by the state. There was discussion around the representative from the Department of Education and whether it might be beneficial to have someone who is expert on the early/developmental years and someone who is more expert with transitional/young adult ages. Legislation does not specify how many appointees may be from each department. This will be taken under consideration. There was discussion around agenda items for the first meeting, which will include background/orientation of the council legislation, history of Autism Plan presented by an Autism Summit member, and supported decision-making.

Focus Area 2: Advisory Role w/ECF CHOICES

The council discussed what its advisory role to ECF CHOICES might look like. There will be waiver amendments coming soon, and the DDPPC would certainly review and provide feedback/recommendations on those. As TennCare constantly looks to and plans for what is next for ECF CHOICES, even as glitches are being resolved with the current program, DDPPC would like to be informed/involved at that level. TennCare encourages grassroots

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feedback from the DDPPC. Families are consistent with wanting education across Groups 4, 5, and 6. DDPPC would also be willing to serve as a sounding board for the four System Transformation Leadership sub-groups referenced earlier. There is concern with the intake process that people are unintentionally being screened out because of the focus on employment. We need to be sending a message to anyone who is transitioning out of high school who has an intellectual and/or developmental disability that they need to self-refer to ECF CHOICES.

Action Items/Next Meeting Date

- Invite Timothy “Bo” Hickman to present on current Intake process.
- Invite John Webb to present Budget Update.

The next DDPPC meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2017, from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. CST at the Hermitage Police Precinct located at 3701 James Kay Lane, Hermitage, TN 37076.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Solita Morris, CAP, Policy Coordinator
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